In the claims:

Please replace the claims with the listing of claims below.

1. (currently amended) A method of treating ~~sickle cell disease in~~ a subject afflicted with sickle cell disease which comprises administering to the subject an amount of an antiviral agent, ~~other than hydroxyurea~~ wherein the antiviral agent is a purine analog, pencyclovir, famcyclovir, ribavirin, lamivudine, amantadine, or rimantadine, effective to inhibit sickling of a cell in the subject, so as to thereby treat ~~sickle cell disease in~~ the subject.

2. - 9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is an erythrocyte cell.

11. - 13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The ~~purine analog~~ method of claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein the purine analog is a guanosine analog.

15. (original) The guanosine analog of claim 14, wherein the guanosine analog is acyclovir.

16. (original) The guanosine analog of claim 14, wherein the guanosine analog is valacyclovir.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein

the sickle cell disease is selected from the group consisting of sickle cell anemia, sickle β-thalassemia, sickle cell-hemoglobin C disease and any other sickle hemoglobinopathy in which hemoglobin S interacts with a hemoglobin other than hemoglobin S.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a mouse, rat, dog, guinea pig, ferret, rabbit, primate, or human being.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the antiviral agent is administered to a subject via intralesional, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intraperitoneal, liposome mediated, transmucosal, intestinal, topical, nasal, oral, anal, ocular or otic delivery.